

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Inventor: Koetsu SAITO, et al.

Art Unit 2834

Appln. No.: 10/573,686

Exr. B. Gordon

Filed: March 27, 2006

Conf. No. 7158

For: ULTRASONIC PROBE

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
AND FEE UNDER 37 CFR §1.17(p)

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to Rules 56 and 97(c), Applicants hereby call the attention of the Patent Office to the references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. Attached is a copy of the Chinese Office Action dated February 15, 2008. References US '718, EP '470, JP '995 and JP '889 cited in the Chinese Office Action were submitted in the Information Disclosure Statement dated October 16, 2008, and are not submitted herewith.

Applicants present these references so that the Patent Office may, in the first instance, determine any relevancy thereof to the presently claimed invention, see Beckman Instruments, Inc. v. Chemtronics, Inc., 439 F.2d 1369, 1380, 165 USPQ 355, 364 (5th Cir. 1970). Also see Patent Office Rules 104 and 106. Applicants respectfully request that these references be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application and made of record herein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue herefrom.

The fee of \$180.00 set forth in 37 CFR §1.17(p) may be charged to Deposit Account No. 04-1061.

The Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee (or credit any overpayment) to Deposit Account No. 04-1061.

Respectfully submitted,

/James Edward Ledbetter/

Date: January 15, 2009

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